

ASSOCIATION OF EWELL DOWNS RESIDENTS

(Founded 1926)

(Non-Political)

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2012

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

What an exciting time it has been since our last newsletter! Locally we were able to enjoy the Queen's Diamond Jubilee which began at the Derby on Epsom Downs and then the lighting of the beacons, one of which was also on the Downs. Later, as a preamble to the Olympic Games, we could watch the Torch Relay which went through many parts of Surrey and then the Olympic road cycling events along with huge crowds of cheering people. Although slightly out of our area, many of you may have noticed there is a double gold painted pillar box in Ewell Road near to Nonsuch High School for Girls. This follows the success of Joanna Rowsell who, as part of the Great Britain track cycling team and a 'local' for most of her life, won a gold medal for the women's team pursuit title in the Velodrome. Well done Joanna.

Whilst the country has had good reason to celebrate sporting achievements, we have continued to carry out our usual functions – looking at planning applications which affect our area, keeping in touch with local issues and liaising with our Councillors to make sure they are aware of our concerns. Amongst these have been Priest Hill where we are working closely with the developers and Surrey Wildlife Trust before work commences (see later report) and the Admission process at Wallace Fields Infant and Junior Schools, which is ongoing.

One thing I have noticed is that we seem to be subjected to litter that has been thrown out of cars. I know that this is not something we can prevent but it would be good if each resident who notices this on the area outside their house would pick it up and dispose of it, thereby keeping the area as pristine as possible.

Thank you to all of you who attended the AGM in March. At the next AGM we hope to be selecting our candidates for the Surrey County Council Elections in May 2013. If you feel inspired to put your name forward, please see the article later in this newsletter and get in touch. We would welcome all enquiries.

Thank you also to our Road Representatives for continuing to distribute newsletters, collect subscriptions etc. and to our Councillors for their continued support. Don't forget we are always looking for extra hands on the Committee so if you would like to be more involved with the Association please contact the Secretary.

STOP PRESS

We are trying to trace a Mr and Mrs B. Appleton who a good few years ago lived in Longdown Lane North. Mr Appleton built a car which has recently been found in a field near Bristol and restored to an excellent condition. The gentleman who has done this work would like to contact Mr Appleton. Can anyone give us any information – please contact Jenny Coleman if you can.

BBC SURREY

We have been approached by the BBC's local radio station searching for unsung heroes from the local community whose efforts often go unrewarded. A copy of the letter will be shown on the website or you can contact Jenny Coleman for further details or to propose your hero. The categories include Young Achiever, Courage, Sport, Good Neighbour, Fundraiser, Volunteer, Local Entrepreneur, Animal Welfare and Outstanding Achievement Award.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

May we remind residents who have not yet paid their annual subscription (£3 per household), that these are now overdue and should be passed as soon as possible to your Road Representative.

We are a voluntary organisation and are solely dependent on your contributions to cover our ongoing running costs. This does not apply to St James' Avenue, which makes a lump sum contribution each year.

DATES FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2012/2013

Committee meetings for the coming year will be held **at** Nescot College in Committee Room1 (off Staff lounge) at 7.30pm on the following Tuesdays:

6 November
15 January

Our AGM is scheduled for Tuesday 5 March 2013, to be held at Nescot College in the Staff Lounge

SCC LOCAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2012/2013

SCC meetings are open to the public and have been arranged for the following dates:

10 December 2012	14.00	Venue to be announced
11 March 2013	19.00	Ebbisham Centre

Our councillor representatives on this committee are Chris Frost and David Wood (SCC) and Michael Arthur (Borough).

The Committee Manager is:

Nicola Morris who can be contacted on 020 8541 9437 for further information.

SCC ELECTIONS 2013

The next Surrey County Council elections will take place on Thursday 2 May 2013. We believe that it is important to elect Resident Association county councillors who live in our community and who know and understand the issues and concerns of our residents.

Later in October we hope to be selecting the two candidates for the Surrey County Council elections and if you would like to be considered for an interview please send a brief expression of interest, including a statement outlining why you wish to be considered to Jenny Coleman, 24 Longdown Lane North, Ewell, Surrey KT17 3JQ or email the Secretary via our website *ewelldownsra.org*.

Your Committee would welcome all enquiries so please get in touch as soon as possible and no later than 31 October.

PRIEST HILL

Following the archaeological check clearance, the Outline Planning Application was approved by the Secretary of State as an appropriate development for the Green Belt – subject to 31 conditions being fulfilled. This has been ongoing since the Surrey County Ecologist proposed a Surrey Wildlife Trust nature reserve over 10 years ago.

With the completion of the first stage, project work may now begin. A final application for the houses, approach road and SWT facilities has now been lodged by the selected developer. This will include a Developer Contribution to St Martin's Primary School. To minimise disturbance to wildlife, work on the boundaries and land improvement will not begin until late autumn.

The future of the rugby pitches has still to be resolved although negotiations with the Borough Council are ongoing.

Creation of a nature reserve - article from SWT Representative

The story of Priest Hill is about to enter a new chapter which, following the years of uncertainty, will see this beautiful local spot and important haven for wildlife managed and protected forever. It is a pleasure to be able to formally introduce Surrey Wildlife Trust to local residents and briefly outline what is going to happen next.

You will be aware that Combined Counties Properties Ltd were granted planning permission in May of this year to restore the land to a nature reserve and build a ranger's house in advance of an enabling development of 15 dwellings on the southern edge of the site.

Over the coming months Combined Counties' contractors will be carrying out land reclamation and landscaping works to create the nature reserve. This will include demolishing the derelict structures and breaking up and removing the hard standing areas. New fences will be installed, hedges planted and ponds created in line with the approved plan. Meanwhile the ranger's house and adjoining small maintenance base will be constructed so a SWT site manager can move in when the nature reserve is ready to be handed over – hopefully by the latter part of 2013. Throughout this phase SWT will be consulted to ensure that the work on the ground is exactly as we want it. The building of the 15 dwelling development will follow later although it is not yet known when this will be.

The resulting 85 acre nature reserve will be funded by an endowment from the developer and will be managed for the benefit of wildlife and as a quiet natural green space for local people.

Our future management will include using a small number of our Belted Galloway cattle to graze the open grassland areas. This attractive and gentle breed of cattle is particularly good at controlling coarse grasses and encouraging a wider range of flowering plants. The plan to graze will mean some internal fencing will go up in the next few months as well as the perimeter fencing to secure the site. Other future work will be aimed at benefiting small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds – including Priest Hill's existing population of skylarks – and there will be opportunities for interested local residents to get involved as volunteers in helping our staff to run the reserve.

So, the future for Priest Hill looks good and we look forward to forging close links with the local community on all sides of the site. If you would like more information about Surrey Wildlife Trust please visit

www.surreywildlifetrust.org

Andrew Jamieson, Surrey Wildlife Trust

NATURAL WORLD

Since our AGM, proposals for the changes to the draft National Planning Policy Framework have been modified to reduce the risk to the development of open spaces but there is now a suggestion of further changes which is being prepared. Fortunately the Borough's Local Development Framework has conditions which could over-ride some developments. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan has now been adopted by the LDF. This has had a long period of gestation since a Project Proposal by the Open Spaces Group of Local Agenda 21 was put to the Council in 2000. After approval, the OSG, assisted by the Council was published in 2009; this was updated in the same year with further updates to follow. Policies to strengthen about 15 topics of the LDF are out for consultation. These include Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity, Trees and Landscapes and Open Spaces, as well as the Built Environment

BONFIRES

It looks as though this is going to be a magnificent autumn with glowing colours on every tree, shrub and hedgerow. Inevitably the volume of falling leaves may tempt people to have bonfires. When you do, please think of your neighbours and other residents. If you leave things you have cut down to dry out before you burn them, you will find that they burn more quickly and with much less smoke.

Before you start, please work out the wind direction and see what effect your bonfire may have on your neighbours. If they are outside enjoying the garden or have washing out, please wait until another day. You would not like your washing covered in smuts from someone else's bonfire. Above all, be safe. A bonfire can very quickly get out of control. Have a hose or bucket of water available to use if necessary, keep children at a safe distance and make sure the bonfire does not pose a danger to the property of others.

Perhaps the safest and most neighbourly action is to take everything to the tip where the leaves and garden debris can be recycled or bag up your leaves to use as compost for your own garden the following year. Why not check out the PartnerCHIP page on the Council's website for hints on composting.

POLICE NEWS

Counterfeit Currency

Recently there has been an increase in counterfeit currency in the Epsom area, in regard to £20 and £10 notes. You can check a note's validity in the following ways:

- Raised print*** this is used in some parts of the note and by running your fingers across the surface, you can feel the raised print in areas such as 'Bank of England' on the front of the note.
- Metallic thread*** is embedded in the paper in every banknote and appears as silver dashes on the reverse side. When held up to the light, the metallic thread appears as a continuous dark line.
- Watermark*** can be seen when held up to the light with an image of the Queen clearly portrayed. This can also be viewed on the back of the note.
- Quality of print*** should be sharp, clear and free from smudges or blurred edges.
- Hologram*** can be found on the foil patch on the front of the note and if tilted, the image will change between a brightly coloured picture of Britannia and the value of the note.
- Ultra-violet feature*** when put under a good quality ultra-violet light, its value appears as a bright red and green patterned number, while the background is dull in contrast.
- Micro-lettering*** by using a magnifying glass, look closely at the lettering beneath the Queen's portrait, where you will see the value of the note written in small letters and numbers.

If you need to make contact:

Email: 11728@surrey.pnn.police.uk Tel: 101

COUNCILLOR MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES & PANELS 2012/2013

BOROUGH

<i>Michael Arthur:</i>	Deputy Mayor Planning Policy Sub-Committee (Chair) Local Committee	Ewell Parochial Trust
<i>Humphrey Reynolds:</i>	Planning Policy Sub-Committee Health Liaison Social Local Committee (Substitute) Ewell Parochial Trust Age Concern Epsom & Ewell	Licensing Environment
<i>Clive Woodbridge:</i>	Financial Policy Strategy & Resources (Vice-Chair)	Crime & Disorder
<i>Graham Dudley:</i>	Planning (Chair)	Scrutiny
<i>Chris Frost:</i>	Health Liaison Human Resources	Social Environment
<i>David Wood:</i>	Leisure Planning Policy Sub-Committee Strategy & Resources Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee (Chair)	Planning

COUNTY

<i>Chris Frost:</i>	SCC Local Committee-Epsom & Ewell (Vice-Chair) Environment & Transport Select Committee Health Scrutiny (substitute) People, Performance & Development Members Steering Group Lower Mole Countryside Management Project Change & Efficiency Select Committee (substitute) Street Furniture Task Group (Chair) Public Value Review on Countryside Service Energy Task Group Public Value Review on the Environment & Infrastructure Directorate	
<i>David Wood:</i>	SCC Local Committee-Epsom & Ewell (Chair) Planning & Regulatory Communities Select Committee	

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

SCC & Nonsuch Ward

- *Councillor Chris Frost*

Contract signed for better Broadband service for Surrey:

A deal with BT to provide superfast broadband will make Surrey the best connected county in the UK and could boost its economy by about £30m a year. This estimate is based on World Bank research, which showed that a 1% increase in broadband coverage results in a 0.12% rise in GDP. Surrey's economy is worth £28bn a year, meaning growth of 0.1% through better broadband coverage would result in a £28m boost to the county's economy. The County Council has signed a contract with BT to create a countywide high-speed network to help firms to do business online and ensure communities are not left behind. Implementation of the project is subject to prior approval from the European Commission under the EU State aid rules. It will mean connection speeds of up to 80Mbps will be available. Ofcom says the UK's average broadband speed is 9Mbps.

The agreement was reached to ensure the county council achieves its aim of providing superfast broadband for up to 20% of businesses and homes – more than 90,000 premises – not included in the commercial rollout nationally. It means nearly all of Surrey's businesses and residents will be covered by the end of 2014. The national aim is for 90% of the country to have access to super fast broadband by 2015.

Openreach, BT's local network division, will install the fibre network which will be open to all communications providers. This means consumers and businesses in Surrey will benefit from a highly competitive market, bringing greater choice and affordable prices. A fibre to the cabinet (FTTC) system, where high-speed fibre cabling is connected to a street cabinet near a user's home, will be the main technology employed, delivering downstream speeds of up to 80Mbps and upstream speeds of up to 20Mbps. The average downstream speed today in Surrey is 7.4Mbps. It will allow businesses to introduce many new services and applications.

Big business applications driven by cloud services and data centres will be within the reach of firms of all sizes. Computer back up, storage and processing will be faster, and the use of high quality videoconferencing by firms and their customers will be possible. Users will be able to run multiple bandwidth-hungry applications at the same time and send and receive large amounts of data much quicker.

New fibre services are also set to transform the way customers use the internet, from speeding up the simple sharing of pictures and video to enjoying the growing boom in entertainment services available online. As part of the project, Surrey County Council and BT will also work closely on next generation broadband solutions for the remaining premises that are harder to reach with a fixed fibre line.

Plans for the future of Epsom hospital;

A public meeting was held at the Town Hall on 12 September. The audience heard that Accident & Emergency and maternity services would continue to be provided at Epsom Hospital. Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is the preferred partner for Epsom, which is currently part of Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust

The existing partnership with the south London hospital should end on 1 April. The meeting was told A&E and maternity services at Epsom were safe as long as staffing levels were maintained, but more mothers would need to be attracted to Epsom. The hospital will also become a base for acute mental health services and a hub for community and social care services. It will be a centre for planned cancer services and a planned surgical centre for east and north Surrey. There will also be a private health care facility at the hospital. The process to find a new partner for Epsom began last year after Epsom NHS was deemed unable to achieve foundation trust status alone. The Chief Executive of Ashford and St Peter's, Andrew Liles, has said the merger will provide a stable future for Epsom as part of a larger catchment area of 600,000 people. St Helier could see the closure of its accident and emergency and maternity wards under a separate review of hospital services in south London.

Increase in TV recycling:

The digital switchover has led to a 40 per cent rise in the number of televisions being recycled in Surrey, which is good news for golfers with a green conscience. Nearly all parts of a television can be recycled including glass screens, which can be transformed into bunker sand for golf courses, plastic, which can be melted down for phones and computers, and copper, which can also be re-used. In the first six months of 2012, Surrey County Council recycled about 28,000 televisions, a 40 per cent rise on the same period in 2011.

Police action on anti-social use of mopeds and motorcycles

From October the police will run additional specific operations to target this issue that will rotate around the Borough. The aim will be to identify the bikes and their riders and then take enforcement action against them. They will use warnings which if breached result in the bike being seized. The police also plan to report the riders for summons so that points can be added to their licences or removed if appropriate. This will be backed up with media campaigns and use of specialist officers from elsewhere in the County. The police ask us to continue to report the issues you see and whenever possible include registration numbers so they can start to identify the locations and individuals that require action.

- *Councillor Graham Dudley*

Planning

Much has appeared in the press and on TV recently about the Government's intention to relax planning rules in order to stimulate the economy. Among the measures mooted are allowing larger extensions without planning permission, reconsidering requirements for affordable housing and Section 106 payments (used to help fund infrastructure) and allowing building on the Green Belt.

All we know for sure is that the Government intends to consult on these and other measures, with a view to introducing some or all of them early next year. Until that happens, it is business as usual at the Planning Department, with decisions (whether by the officers or the Planning Committee) continuing to be taken in accordance with the current

planning policy. Your councillors will of course, advise you when and if any of these changes are introduced and continue to oppose measures likely to adversely affect the local community, such as inappropriate building on the Green Belt.

Ewell Ward

- *Councillors Michael Arthur, Humphrey Reynolds & Clive Woodbridge*

Positive signs on the hospital future

For most of the past decade there has been a huge question mark hanging over the future of Epsom General Hospital. Now there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel, through a proposed merger with Ashford & St Peters Hospitals Foundation Trust, and de-merger from St Helier's Hospital.

There are still several areas of uncertainty but Ashford & St Peters have committed to retain all existing services on the Epsom site, including A&E and maternity, for at least a year after the merger. They also plan to develop new services on the site, such as enhanced cancer treatment, through a link with the Royal Marsden.

Many financial loose ends have to be resolved though, particularly how the deficit at EGH is to be financed. Also there are concerns about transportation arrangements between Epsom and the other sites which are near Chertsey and Ashford. Your RA councillors came away from a recent presentation by Ashford & St Peters encouraged, and of the view that this is the best option for our local hospital. However it is by no means a 'done deal' as yet.

Civic Improvement Fund aims for shop improvements

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is launching a new Civic Improvement Fund, using a total of £100,000 from the Government's High Street Innovation Fund and the New Homes Bonus. This Fund, which is based largely on a similar and successful scheme in operation in Elmbridge, will look to secure physical improvements to the public realm and shop fronts in particular. The aim is to give a boost to local retail and other businesses in these testing times and encourage people to shop locally.

Initially applications will be invited from eligible business owners on a proactive basis by council officers targeting empty and unsightly shop fronts in Epsom, Ewell and Stoneleigh. The twin objectives will be maximum visual improvements and securing some 'quick wins'. Funding will be up to 90% of allowable costs. Any monies left after the initial phase of the scheme, which will run to the end of March 2013, will be open to bids from businesses and community organisations.

If the scheme is successful it is hoped to continue to offer this support to local traders in future years and to also extend it to other parts of the Borough.

Important PCC elections on the way

On 15th November this year there will be an election for a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Surrey. The role of the Commissioner will be wide-ranging and will include setting the priorities for Surrey police, appointing the Chief Constable and to hold him or her to account for the delivery and performance of policing in the area. Information about candidates in Surrey can be found on the website www.topofthecops.com. The www.surreypa.gov.uk/pcc website also has useful information.

It is hoped that a public meeting will be organised in Epsom so that all candidates can answer any questions residents may have. If this happens it will be publicised locally so do keep a look out for it.

This is an important election. Please make sure you exercise your right to vote on November 15th.

Council Tax support consultation

Residents are being asked to give their views on the proposed new Local Council Tax Support scheme for Epsom & Ewell. The consultation runs through to 28th October 2012, so there is still time for you to have your say on this important issue.

The Government has reduced funding for council tax benefit by over 10% and the Council will have to make some changes to bridge this funding gap.

To take part in the consultation visit www.epsom-ewell.gov.uk, where you can view or download the Information Booklet which explains the Draft Scheme and complete the Council Tax Support scheme questionnaire online.

The consultation will help the Council make an informed decision about the best possible scheme for Epsom & Ewell residents. Councillors will have to decide on the new scheme at a Full Council meeting on 11th December 2012.

Council saves energy

Energy savings are a key priority for your local council, which reduced greenhouse gas emissions from its own operations by around 25% between 2008-9 and 2011-12. This is significantly in excess of the Surrey average. Moreover since 2007-8 the council's gas consumption has been reduced by more than half and electricity consumption by almost 40%.

Individual sites show some very spectacular reductions in energy consumption. Comparing August 2010 and August 2012 for example there was a 301% reduction in electricity consumption at Ewell Court House, 41% at the Ashley Centre car park and 73% at Hook Road Car Park.

While it will be difficult to sustain the level of these reductions, the Council is aiming for some significant savings in the next few years. It has set a target of a further reduction of 25% in electricity and 15% in gas consumption by 2015-16.

ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The Association seeks to protect and enhance the interests of residents. Our primary concerns centre on planning, traffic, security and other topics which directly affect our area. To this end, we maintain regular contact with our Councillors who also attend our Committee meetings. Visits are made to the Town Hall to view planning applications and to monitor the agenda items for the committee meetings of prime relevance e.g. Planning, Environment, Leisure and Strategy & Resources, and where appropriate to make our views known.

Other activities include sponsoring our election candidates, helping to prepare manifestos and knocking on as many doors as possible at local election time.

For the delivery of election manifestos and of our twice yearly newsletters, we rely on the vital services of our Road Representatives, who also provide indispensable communication lines. To keep in touch with Borough-wide issues, Committee members also attend as appropriate meetings of other bodies such as the Standing Committee of Residents Associations (SCoRA), the Environment Forum, Police Liaison, and the Epsom and Ewell branch of CPRE.

FOR NEW RESIDENTS

All residents are eligible to join. If they subsequently have any problems or concerns, we ask that these should first be taken up with the Borough or County Council as appropriate. If you are still not satisfied with the response, please approach your Road Representative, Councillor, or Committee member. Our aim is to assist as best we can.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR EPSOM AND EWELL

Our local MP is **Chris Grayling**, who can be contacted at the following:

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

or

212 Barnet Wood Lane
Ashted, Surrey
KT21 2DB

Association of Ewell Downs Residents 2012 – 2013

OFFICERS

Vice-President	Peter Gilder, 44A Ewell Downs Road	020 8394 0429
Chairman	Jenny Coleman, 24 Longdown Lane North	020 8393 8124
Vice- Chairman:	<i>Vacant</i>	
Hon Treasurer:	Gavin Marks, 43 Longdown Lane North	020 8393 3009
Hon. Secretary:	Paula McNally, 25 Longdown Lane North	020 8393 1483

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peter Kalinowski, 5 Higher Green	020 8393 4194
Michael Lockyer, 18 Higher Green	07818 067 741
Danny Scanlon, Cherry Tree Cottage, Reigate Road	020 8394 1315

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Beech Walk	Meurig Thomas, 16 Beech Walk	020 8393 5197
Ewell Downs Road		
North End	Alison Spicer, 45 The Green	020 8393 6079
South End	Joan England, 46 Ewell Downs Road	020 8393 2291
The Green		
North End	Sarah Shickle, 23 The Green	020 8393 8230
South End	Ann Broad, 77 The Green	020 8393 8653
Hampton Grove	Kim Thorp, 3 Hampton Grove	020 8394 0650
Higher Green		
Even numbers	Michael Lockyer, 18 Higher Green	07818 067 741
Odd numbers	Liz Jones, 37 Higher Green	07955 769 541
Langton Avenue	Michael Arthur, 20A Langton Avenue	020 8393 1476
Longdown Lane North		
North End	Graham Evans, 30 Longdown Lane North	020 8394 0160
South End	Steve Gebbett, 53 Longdown Lane North	01372 720921
Park Hill Road		
Reigate Road		
No. 28, 34-52	Meurig Thomas, 16 Beech Walk	020 8393 5197
No. 54-92	Esme Wilson, 'Tandlewood' (Next to 54)	020 8393 5475
No. 94-118	Carol Billam, Cefn, Nth Looe Estate	020 8393 2490
No. 120-140	Carol Billam, Cefn, Nth Looe Estate	020 8393 2490
Small Holdings		
The Looe-143	Carol Billam, Cefn, Nth. Looe Estate	020 8393 2490
St James Avenue	Jason Barnett, 15 St James' Avenue	07880 958 592
Windmill Avenue	<i>Vacancy</i>	
Windmill Lane	<i>Vacancy</i>	
No 1-21		

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Ewell Ward

Michael Arthur	20A Langton Avenue	020 8393 1476
Humphrey Reynolds	18 Purberry Grove	020 8393 3752
Clive Woodbridge	16 Corbet Road	020 8393 2853

Nonsuch Ward

Graham Dudley	93 Chadacre Road	020 8786 9096
Chris Frost	'Oak View' 8 Warren Hill, Epsom	01372 720430
David Wood	1 Hays Walk, Cheam	020 8786 9386

SURREY COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Chris Frost	Oak View, 8 Warren Hill, Epsom	01372 720430
David Wood	1 Hays Walk, Cheam	020 8786 9386

Published by the Association of Ewell Downs Residents www.ewelldownsra.org